--- 20 Cigarettes - Series “C” - imperforate - “Canadian Tobacofina” - [30-10-D] ---

The Canadian operations of “Benson and Hedges” was established by Arthur Walsh, a London (U.K.) bookkeeper who had been placed in charge of their New York branch in 1895, and who opened the first “Benson and Hedges” store in Montreal in 1906.

In the late 1920’s “Benson and Hedges” moved into the Canadian cigar market when they purchased the assets of “J. Hirsch and Sons Ltd.”, Montreal - who had been manufacturing cigars since the 1880’s.

In July 1958 “Philip Morris Incorporated” (which had merged with “Benson and Hedges”, New York, in 1954) also merged with “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” [**8-10D**], and in 1961 opened a modern cigarette factory at Brampton, Ontario [**1-80-E**].

In 1962 “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” purchased “Tabacofina of Canada” [**30-10D**] and acquired their cigarette factory in Montreal where Tabacofina had for some years manufactured *Belvedere* cigarettes. The company’s range of cigarettes included *Parliament; Alpine; Benson & Hedges* 100 mm., plain and menthol; *Mark* 10, plain and menthol; *Belvedere*, and *Belmont*.

--- 20 Cigarettes - Series “C” - imperforate - “Canadian Tobacofina” - [30-10-D] - 1962-63 ---

After their acquisition by “Benson & Hedges” in 1962, “Canadian Tabacofina” ran a *weekly* number sequence, extending from **101** to **200** without a company coding. This covered two years production. Since the cancellation **119** is on a copy of **RC-412** ***for “over-weight” cigarettes*** (which is dated from late in 1961 into 1962) I feel that they were running weekly codes (probably four periods per month) - which I will begin in January 1962.

--- 20 Cigarettes - Series “C” - imperforate - “Canadian Tobacofina” - [30-10-D] - 1962-63 ---

--- the cancellation read vertically down - 13 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	101*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	106	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	119	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1963	149	---	---	---	165	---	---	177	---	---	---	193
	---	154	---	162	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	194
	---	---	---	---	---	---	175	179	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	188	---	196

119 occurs on the overweight provisional overprint **RC-412** (illustrated above) and can be dated as late in **1961** or early in **1962** - just before the Budget legislation raised the weight for *small cigarettes* from the then wartime limit of 2½ pounds per thousand, to the old pre-war three pounds per thousand.

It seems to me that 119 should fall earlier than the 3rd week of May 1962. Probably the start of these three digit codes should be pushed back into 1961.

--- 20 Cigarettes - Series “C” - imperforate - “Canadian Tobacofina” - [30-10-D] - 1964-66 ---

“Benson & Hedges / Canadian Tabacofina” continued their *weekly* number sequence, now using two digits (having dropped the leading “2”) and extending at least from **11** to **73**, without a company coding. This coding covers about two years. I have little doubt that the sequence does not end at **73**. The table should be adjusted as new items are found.

--- the cancellation read vertically down - 6 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1964	---	---	---	---	**17**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	**14**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1965	---	---	**57**	---	---	---	**73**	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	**58**	**62**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- 20 Cigarettes - Series “C” - imperforate - “Canadian Tobacofina” - [30-10-D] - 1966 ---

The following series found on the imperforate Series “C” twenty cigarettes stamp uses a heavy 5 mm. Gothic letter as a date code. They come from the period 1966 (after the code reversal to [**10D-30**] had occurred). I had felt that these are a complete letter sequence reading in *months* of production.

Counting those used on the imperforate Series “C” twenty-five cigarettes stamp used by “Canadian Tabacofina”, and adding those from the parent company “Benson & Hedges”, the letters **A, C, E, H, I, K, L, O, R, T** and **W** have been collected from this sequence. Since **E** and **T** can also be found on the “Wings” series it would seem that they immediately preceded the total introduction of “Wings” in 1969.

★**RC-386** - 20 cigarettes, imperf, coded **A / 10D 30** by “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal

--- the cancellation read vertically down - 6 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1966	**A**	---	---	---	**E**	---	---	**H**	---	---	---	**L**
1967	---	---	**O**	---	---	**R**	---	---	---	---	**W**	---

Since, in red ink, **E** occurs on the Series “C” 25 cigarettes stamp, and is also found on the “Wings” Series 25 cigarettes stamp, this places **E** around the end of Series “C” in 1968.

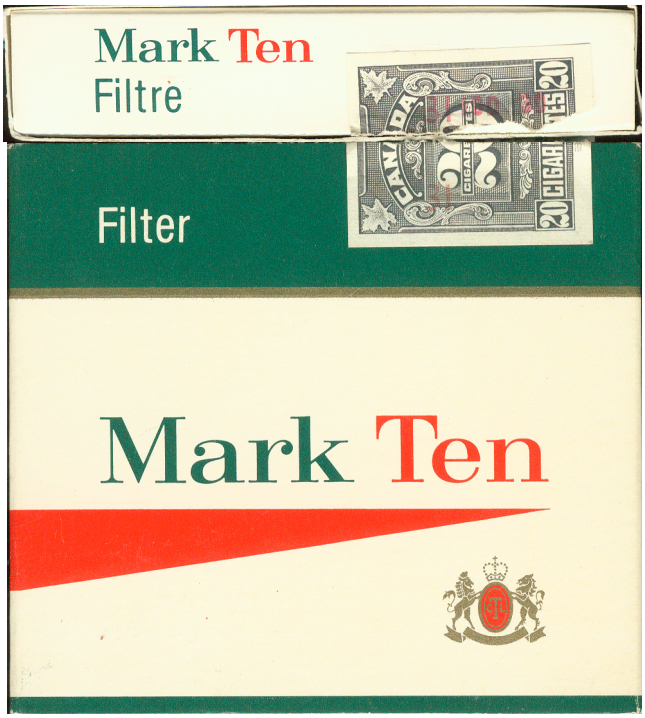
--- 20 Cigarettes – “Wings Series” - imperforate - “Canadian Tobacofina” - [30-10-D] - 1968-74 ---

Then follows a numbered sequence on the twenty cigarette “Wings” Series using a modern Roman typeface, running from 01 to 80 (the highest found to date), which judging by the packaging fragments on the stamps, most were from *Belvedere*.

The use of the twenty cigarettes “Wings” Series seems to have begun with 01 in 1968 and ended at 80 in August 1974. The number 13 occurs in other sequences from “Canadian Tobacofina”.

--- the cancellation reads vertically down - 14 copies to date ---

[★RC-815]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1968	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	08	---	---	---	---
1969	---	---	---	16	---	---	---	20	---	---	---	---
1970	---	---	27	28	---	---	31	---	---	34	---	---
1971	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1972	---	---	---	52	---	---	---	---	57	58	---	---
1973	61	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	70	71	---
1974	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	80	---	---	---	---



★**RC-815** - 20 cigarettes, “Wings” Series, imperf, on a 3¼” x 2 ⅞” x ⅝” light cardboard slide box of **Mark Ten -** FILTER TIP cigarettes, manufactured by “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal.

The stamp is cancelled 31 / 10D-30 / 31 and the coupon inside expired on June 30, 1980 - in ten years

---

File path is [c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 20 cigarettes \ 30-10D - small - black cancels],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 24th 2013, JBH